

Carver State Bank on his election as chair of the National Bankers Association.

The National Bankers Association is based in Washington, D.C., and has represented minority-owned and women-owned banks in the U.S. since 1927.

Mr. James wears many hats. He serves Carver State Bank as its director of Strategic Initiatives and is a member of its board of directors; is a partner at the law firm, Golden Holley James, LLP; and is president of Coastal Legacy Group, LLC, which is a real estate development and consulting firm he founded in 2004.

When he was earning his law degree at Harvard, he received a legal training scholarship and was elected president of Harvard Black Law Students Association, as well. By stepping up to the plate to lead the National Bankers Association, he has demonstrated his dedication to serving his community and contributing to the success of the American banking industry as a whole.

Congratulations, again, on this great accomplishment. Mr. Speaker, I wish Mr. James the very best.

ELECTORAL COLLEGE

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I know that we will be discussing COVID-19, and I cannot stand on this floor without ever mentioning that we must help the American people.

But today I stand on this floor to acknowledge the existence of the Electoral College.

Mr. Speaker, many Americans are unfamiliar with this very interesting fixture in law. Article II, Section 1 of the Constitution gives us the Electoral College. But let me be very clear. In the next couple of days, many States will certify those who have voted. The Electoral College will meet, by the Constitution, on December 14. Most State legislators have indicated that the electors are to vote the popular vote. All of the battleground States have certified that the next President and Vice President of the United States are Joe Biden and KAMALA HARRIS.

What is my plea today?

My plea today is for us to harmoniously join together in recognizing the value of this Constitution, the sanctity of democracy, and to proceed as a House and Senate to embrace this election and the victors.

Why?

Because the Nation needs us, and the Constitution says so.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to us working together.

CONGRATULATING REPRESENTATIVE MICHAEL CONAWAY ON HIS RETIREMENT

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to ad-

dress the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank, celebrate, and congratulate my friend and colleague, MIKE CONAWAY, who will be leaving us to enjoy his much-deserved retirement.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a tremendous privilege and honor to serve under MIKE's leadership throughout my time on the Committee on Agriculture, and I am grateful to have worked with such a tireless advocate for rural America.

MIKE's leadership on the 2018 farm bill was particularly impressive, which marked the first time in nearly 30 years that a farm bill was enacted in the same year that it was introduced. I continue to be inspired by MIKE's principles in leadership outside of committee work as well. I have been lucky enough to share many Wednesday mornings with him as a brother of faith during Bible study.

Mr. Speaker, I send my very best wishes to MIKE and his wife, Suzanne, who has been kind enough to share him with us for over the last 16 years.

I thank MIKE for his friendship and guidance over the years. He will be sincerely missed.

COVID RELIEF FOR AMERICANS

(Ms. SCANLON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, it has been 257 days since the first major COVID relief package was signed into law—257 days. In that time period, COVID cases in the U.S. have skyrocketed, and we have lost almost 290,000 Americans.

The devastation this virus has wrought on our families, our communities, and our economy is enormous. But it would have been so much worse if we had not provided that early relief to our families, our small businesses, and workers impacted by the spring surge. And economists are clear that we need to provide more direct relief in order to buoy the economy, much less to keep people safe.

The relief that we are seeking, that the American people are seeking is not a handout. It is a lifeline. It is critical to get relief in the hands of families, small businesses, frontline workers, and local governments so we can get the virus under control. But, also, so we can get the country back to work once we do so.

Mr. Speaker, time is of the essence. Unemployment is running out, small businesses—and especially, restaurants—are closing. Families are facing eviction and foreclosure.

Mr. Speaker, fighting this pandemic has been hard enough on the American people. Getting them the relief they need to stay safe and healthy shouldn't be.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2021, AND OTHER EXTENSIONS ACT

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 8900) making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2021, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 8900

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2021, and Other Extensions Act".

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title.

Sec. 2. Table of contents.

Sec. 3. References.

DIVISION A—FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2021

DIVISION B—HEALTH EXTENDERS

Title I—Medicare and Medicaid Extenders

Title II—Public Health Extenders and Food and Drug Administration Provisions

Title III—Offsets

Title IV—Budgetary Effects

SEC. 3. REFERENCES.

Except as expressly provided otherwise, any reference to "this Act" contained in any division of this Act shall be treated as referring only to the provisions of that division.

DIVISION A—FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2021

SEC. 101. The Continuing Appropriations Act, 2021 (division A of Public Law 116-159) is amended by striking the date specified in section 106(3) and inserting "December 18, 2020".

This division may be cited as the "Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2021".

DIVISION B—HEALTH EXTENDERS

TITLE I—MEDICARE AND MEDICAID EXTENDERS

SEC. 1101. EXTENSION OF THE WORK GEOGRAPHIC INDEX FLOOR UNDER THE MEDICARE PROGRAM.

Section 1848(e)(1)(E) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-4(e)(1)(E)), as amended by section 3801 of the CARES Act (Public Law 116-136) and section 2201 of the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2021 and Other Extensions Act (Public Law 116-159), is amended by striking "December 12, 2020" and inserting "December 19, 2020".

SEC. 1102. EXTENSION OF FUNDING OUTREACH AND ASSISTANCE FOR LOW-INCOME PROGRAMS.

(a) STATE HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAMS.—Subsection (a)(1)(B)(xi) of section 119 of the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 (42 U.S.C. 1395b-3 note), as amended by section 3306 of the Patient

Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148), section 610 of the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-240), section 1110 of the Pathway for SGR Reform Act of 2013 (Public Law 113-67), section 110 of the Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-93), section 208 of the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-10), section 50207 of division E of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-123), section 1402 of division B of the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2020, and Health Extenders Act of 2019 (Public Law 116-59), section 1402 of division B of the Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2020, and Further Health Extenders Act of 2019 (Public Law 116-69), section 103 of division N of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (Public Law 116-94), section 3803 of the CARES Act (Public Law 116-136), and section 2203 of the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2021 and Other Extensions Act (Public Law 116-159), is amended by striking “December 11” and inserting “December 18”.

(b) AREA AGENCIES ON AGING.—Subsection (b)(1)(B)(xi) of such section 119, as so amended, is amended by striking “December 11” and inserting “December 18”.

(c) AGING AND DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTERS.—Subsection (c)(1)(B)(xi) of such section 119, as so amended, is amended by striking “December 11” and inserting “December 18”.

(d) CONTRACT WITH THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR BENEFITS AND OUTREACH ENROLLMENT.—Subsection (d)(2)(xi) of such section 119, as so amended, is amended by striking “December 11” and inserting “December 18”.

SEC. 1103. EXTENSION OF FUNDING FOR QUALITY MEASURE ENDORSEMENT, INPUT, AND SELECTION.

Section 1890(d)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395aaa(d)(2)) is amended by striking “December 11” each place such phrase appears and inserting “December 18” in each such place.

SEC. 1104. EXTENSION OF COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.

Section 223(d)(3) of the Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014 (42 U.S.C. 1396a note), as amended by Public Law 116-159, is amended by striking “December 11” and inserting “December 18”.

SEC. 1105. EXTENSION OF SPOUSAL IMPOVERISHMENT PROTECTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2404 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 1396r-5 note), as amended by Public Law 116-159, is amended by striking “December 11” and inserting “December 18”.

(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in section 2404 of Public Law 111-148 (42 U.S.C. 1396r-5 note) or section 1902(a)(17) or 1924 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(a)(17), 1396r-5) shall be construed as prohibiting a State from—

(1) applying an income or resource disregard under a methodology authorized under section 1902(r)(2) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(r)(2))—

(A) to the income or resources of an individual described in section 1902(a)(10)(A)(ii)(VI) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(a)(10)(A)(ii)(VI)) (including a disregard of the income or resources of such individual’s spouse); or

(B) on the basis of an individual’s need for home and community-based services authorized under subsection (c), (d), (i), or (k) of section 1915 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1396n) or under section 1115 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1315); or

(2) disregarding an individual’s spousal income and assets under a plan amendment to provide medical assistance for home and community-based services for individuals by

reason of being determined eligible under section 1902(a)(10)(C) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(a)(10)(C)) or by reason of section 1902(f) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(f)) or otherwise on the basis of a reduction of income based on costs incurred for medical or other remedial care under which the State disregarded the income and assets of the individual’s spouse in determining the initial and ongoing financial eligibility of an individual for such services in place of the spousal impoverishment provisions applied under section 1924 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1396r-5).

SEC. 1106. EXTENSION OF DELAY OF DSH REDUCTIONS.

Section 1923(f)(7) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396r-4(f)(7)(A)) is amended by striking “December 12” each place such phrase appears and inserting “December 19” in each such place.

SEC. 1107. EXTENSION OF MONEY FOLLOWS THE PERSON.

Section 6071(h)(1)(H) of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 1396a note) is amended by striking “December 11” and inserting “December 18”.

TITLE II—PUBLIC HEALTH EXTENDERS AND FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION PROVISIONS

Subtitle A—Public Health Extenders

SEC. 1201. EXTENDING FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS, NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS, AND TEACHING HEALTH CENTER GME.

(a) COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS.—Section 10503(b)(1)(F) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 254b-2(b)(1)(F)) is amended—

(1) by striking “\$789,041,096” and inserting “\$865,753,425”; and

(2) by striking “December 11, 2020” and inserting “December 18, 2020”.

(b) NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS.—Section 10503(b)(2)(H) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 254b-2(b)(2)(H)) is amended—

(1) by striking “\$61,150,685” and inserting “\$67,095,890”; and

(2) by striking “December 11, 2020” and inserting “December 18, 2020”.

(c) TEACHING HEALTH CENTERS THAT OPERATE GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS.—Section 340H(g)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 256h(g)(1)) is amended—

(1) by striking “\$24,953,425” and inserting “\$27,379,452”; and

(2) by striking “December 11, 2020” and inserting “December 18, 2020”.

(d) APPLICATION OF PROVISIONS.—Amounts appropriated pursuant to the amendments made by this section for the period beginning on December 11, 2020, and ending on December 18, 2020, shall be subject to the requirements contained in Public Law 116-94 for funds for programs authorized under sections 330 through 340 of the Public Health Service Act.

(e) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Paragraph (4) of section 3014(h) of title 18, United States Code, as amended by section 3831(e) of the CARES Act (Public Law 116-136), is amended—

(1) by striking “Social Services Act,” and inserting “Social Services Act.”; and

(2) by striking “and section 2101 of the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2021 and Other Extensions Act” and inserting “section 2101 of the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2021 and Other Extensions Act, and section 1201(d) of the Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2021, and Other Extensions Act”.

SEC. 1202. DIABETES PROGRAMS.

(a) SPECIAL DIABETES PROGRAMS FOR TYPE I DIABETES.—Section 330B(b)(2)(D) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254c-2(b)(2)(D)) is amended—

(1) by striking “\$29,589,042” and inserting “\$32,465,753”; and

(2) by striking “December 11, 2020” and inserting “December 18, 2020”.

(b) SPECIAL DIABETES PROGRAMS FOR INDIANS.—Section 330C(c)(2)(D) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254c-3(c)(2)(D)) is amended—

(1) by striking “\$29,589,042” and inserting “\$32,465,753”; and

(2) by striking “December 11, 2020” and inserting “December 18, 2020”.

SEC. 1203. PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY EDUCATION; SEXUAL RISK AVOIDANCE EDUCATION.

(a) SEXUAL RISK AVOIDANCE EDUCATION.—Section 510 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 710) is amended by striking “December 11, 2020” each place it appears and inserting “December 18, 2020”.

(b) PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY EDUCATION.—Section 513 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 713) is amended by striking “December 11, 2020” each place it appears and inserting “December 18, 2020”.

Subtitle B—Food and Drug Administration Provisions

SEC. 1211. RARE PEDIATRIC DISEASE PRIORITY REVIEW VOUCHER EXTENSION.

Section 529(b)(5) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 360ff(b)(5)) is amended—

(1) by striking “December 11, 2020” each place it appears and inserting “December 18, 2020”; and

(2) in subparagraph (B), by striking “December 11, 2022” and inserting “December 18, 2022”.

TITLE III—OFFSETS

SEC. 1301. TRANSPARENCY OF MEDICARE SECONDARY PAYER REPORTING INFORMATION.

Section 1862(b)(8)(G) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 395y(b)(8)(G)) is amended—

(1) by striking “INFORMATION.—The Secretary” and inserting “INFORMATION.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new clause:

“(ii) SPECIFIED INFORMATION.—In responding to any query made on or after the date that is 1 year after the date of the enactment of this clause from an applicable plan related to a determination described in subparagraph (A)(i), the Secretary, notwithstanding any other provision of law, shall provide to such applicable plan—

“(I) whether a claimant subject to the query is, or during the preceding 3-year period has been, entitled to benefits under the program under this title on any basis; and

“(II) to the extent applicable, the plan name and address of any Medicare Advantage plan under part C and any prescription drug plan under part D in which the claimant is enrolled or has been enrolled during such period.”.

SEC. 1302. DISPENSATION OF NARCOTIC DRUGS FOR THE PURPOSE OF RELIEVING ACUTE WITHDRAWAL SYMPTOMS FROM OPIOID USE DISORDER.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall revise section 1306.07(b) of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations, so that practitioners, in accordance with applicable State, Federal, or local laws relating to controlled substances, are allowed to dispense not more than a three-day supply of narcotic drugs to one person or for one person’s use at one time for the purpose of initiating maintenance treatment or detoxification treatment (or both).

SEC. 1303. MEDICAID IMPROVEMENT FUND.

Section 1941(b)(3)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396w-1(b)(3)(A)) is amended by striking “\$3,446,000,000” and inserting “\$3,464,000,000”.

TITLE IV—BUDGETARY EFFECTS

SEC. 1401. BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

(a) STATUTORY PAYGO SCORECARDS.—The budgetary effects of this division shall not be entered on either PAYGO scorecard maintained pursuant to section 4(d) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010.

(b) SENATE PAYGO SCORECARDS.—The budgetary effects of this division shall not be entered on any PAYGO scorecard maintained for purposes of section 4106 of H. Con. Res. 71 (115th Congress).

(c) CLASSIFICATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.—Notwithstanding Rule 3 of the Budget Scorekeeping Guidelines set forth in the joint explanatory statement of the committee of conference accompanying Conference Report 105-217 and section 250(c)(8) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, the budgetary effects of this division shall not be estimated—

(1) for purposes of section 251 of such Act; and

(2) for purposes of paragraph (4)(C) of section 3 of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 as being included in an appropriation Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER) each will control 20 minutes. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Connecticut.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill, H.R. 8900, currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Connecticut?

There was no objection.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as we speak, the Appropriations Committees are hard at work negotiating fiscal year 2021 appropriations bills. There are many serious issues facing our Nation, and Federal funding plays a critical role in supporting families and communities as they go about their day-to-day lives as they try to survive during this health and economic crisis.

Mr. Speaker, Americans deserve the certainty of a full-year funding, and the Congress has a responsibility to the Nation to do its job and pass all 12 funding bills before we adjourn.

The continuing resolution we consider today will keep the government up and running to bring spending talks to a successful conclusion. These are serious issues that touch every aspect of people's lives, like their education, transportation systems, national security, public health infrastructure, and our environment.

□ 1230

In addition to an omnibus appropriations bill, it is my hope that this additional week will allow negotiators the time to assemble an emergency coronavirus relief package.

To take advantage of this window of opportunity, Leader MCCONNELL must

finally sit down with Democrats to find a bipartisan solution.

Coupled with a full year of government funding, an interim coronavirus relief package is critical. It is a lifeline for working families. If we do not act, 12 million Americans could lose unemployment aid just after Christmas, and millions could lose access to paid sick leave and protections against evictions. This will put working families over the edge and our economy closer to the financial cliff.

I urge my colleagues to join me in adopting this continuing resolution. Let us support the ongoing negotiations.

People are desperate. They are counting on us. We need to provide relief to working families, to our schools, to our children, to small businesses, and to communities across the Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 8900, a continuing resolution that will fund the government through December 18.

Members of the Appropriations Committee have been negotiating night and day for weeks to reach agreement on a full-year appropriations bill. At the same time, House and Senate leaders continue to discuss a coronavirus relief package with the administration. It is my hope that we can complete both of these important pieces of legislation as soon as possible.

There is so much at stake: our national security, the health and welfare of millions of Americans, and our economic recovery. Passing this 1-week CR is simply a stopgap measure. I expect we will be back on the floor next week to complete the year's work.

I urge my colleagues to join me in voting in favor of this continuing resolution so that the Senate can pass it and send it to the President for signature. Then, we must immediately get back to the important work the American people expect us to finish.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Ms. DELAURO. She and I have served on the Appropriations Committee together and in the Congress for a very long time. She is one of our most able, energetic, and knowledgeable Members.

As someone who is very proud of my relationship to the Appropriations Committee, I know that she will do an excellent job working with the minority and the ranking member, with whom I also served, to make sure that the Appropriations Committee works in a way that benefits the American people and does so in a timely fashion.

Normally, I would not speak—well, though I do speak most of the time on the CR, because the CR is a recognition of failure. It is not any one individual's failure. It is not a bad thing. It is just

that we have had trouble getting together and coming to an agreement.

I want to observe, and maybe it has already been observed, we passed 10 of our 12 appropriations bills by July 26. That was 2 months before the end of the fiscal year. The Senate, unfortunately, didn't pass any of its appropriations bills. It still has not passed any of its appropriations bills. It has a document that they did not pass through committee and has not passed the Senate that is the basis for our negotiations.

That has delayed us substantially, not because the House didn't do its work on time, but, because for whatever reasons, the Senate did not address the appropriations process in a timely fashion.

Mr. Speaker, I have served on the Appropriations Committee for a long time. I went on in January 1983. I was on the subcommittee that Ms. DELAURO now chairs as well. When we would pass a bill, the Senate would pass a bill, and we would go to conferences. Some of our Members don't know what a conference is.

The Members of the House committee and the Members of the Senate committee came together in a room and talked about how we were going to resolve the differences between the two bills. That hardly ever happens now, and we are losing something of the legislative process because it doesn't happen.

With all due respect to the four people who now are called the four corners, whether it is the chairs of the committees, or the Speaker and the minority leader in the House, and the minority leader and the majority leader in the Senate, those four people have a lot of work to do.

I am the majority leader over here. I know I have a lot of things to watch out for, and I cannot focus the way the members of the subcommittees focus on the substance of the issues. Therefore, we lose something by not having all of the Members included.

Now, because that hasn't happened, and they haven't come up with a product, we are here with what we call a continuing resolution. But that really is an admission of failure.

We passed one before September 30 so the government didn't shut down. It was the right thing to do. We are going to pass one now. It is the right thing to do. This is something that we have to do to keep the government working.

But we ought not believe or pretend or represent this is the way we ought to do business. It is not. It is a function of procrastination, a function of failing to come together and making compromises.

That is what this body is about, all of these chairs here. We have to come to an agreement. The Constitution says if we don't come to an agreement and the Senate doesn't come to an agreement and the President doesn't come to an agreement with exactly the same thing, nothing happens.

I make this observation every time we do this. But I will tell you this, Mr. Speaker. I have talked to the new chair—and I know the ranking member, and I have worked with her and have great respect for her, as she knows. Why? Because she wants to get a job done.

She was a mayor. She was a mayor of a great city in the State of Texas. She knows that you have to get things done.

Ms. DELAURO is a person who gets things done.

I am going to work with both of them, Mr. Speaker, in this coming Congress. We are going to pass every one of the appropriations bills, every one.

We haven't dealt with homeland security because of the wall, not because of the other items, but the wall. We had a disagreement. We couldn't forge agreement on that and compromise on that.

I am going to work with both the chair and the ranking member, and, frankly, all the Members on both sides of the aisle to get our work done by June 30 of this coming year. That will give us 90 days to reach agreement with the Senate, pass the bills, and do it by September 30.

We have rarely done that. I think in my 40 years of service in this House, I think we have done it twice. I would have to check. Maybe it was only once. Maybe you could tell me that, and we could find out. But I am hopeful that we will do it.

There aren't many Members on this floor. This CR has to pass. All we did was change the date because of practically recognizing we have not gotten our work done on time.

And whoever is listening, whether the public or other Members are listening, Mr. Speaker, as I speak, I hope they will take to heart our responsibility to the American people, and to this institution, to make it work on time.

I told the majority leader of the United States Senate just about 2 days ago, 3 days ago, I said: MITCH, there is no agreement we can make on December 18 that we can't make on December 11. There is no magic in these next 7 days—now, I guess, 9 days. There is no magic in it. It is just, psychologically, we have until December 18, so we won't make the agreement today.

That is why I set December 11, because I was hopeful that we could do it by December 11. I urged the Members to do December 11, very frankly, for two reasons. Number one, it is the right thing to do. And number two, our Members are at risk when they travel. They are at risk here. They need to be in their homes quarantined with people who do not pose them any risk.

It is not that we want to shirk our duty. We can do our duty, but we don't need to be here for 2 more weeks or 1 more week to do it. We just have to have the thought in mind we are going to get it done today.

This will give us 8 more days, 9 more days to do it. I know the staff is going

to be working round the clock over the weekend to get us a bill done.

We need to pass three bills. We passed the NDAA last night. That bill should be passed in June as well, or late May. I told Mr. SMITH and the new ranking member that I am going to do everything I can to have that bill on the floor this coming May. We traditionally did that. I am not inventing something. Ms. DELAURO knows we did that; the ranking member knows we did that.

We all say it is a very important bill. Well, if it is a very important bill, let's deal with it in a timely fashion and not have this last-minute veto; we are going to do this.

We need to pass it, and 335 of us yesterday said we need to pass this bill.

So, I will end this tirade by simply saying congratulations to Ms. DELAURO and to the ranking member, who is a good friend and a very responsible Member of this House.

I will work closely with them and with all of our Members, Mr. Speaker, to make sure that the American people can be proud of the fact that the House of Representatives knows its responsibilities, meets its responsibilities, and passes legislation in a timely fashion and does not say to the Federal employees and the people who are operating government: Maybe you will be funded tomorrow and maybe you won't.

We have wasted billions of dollars over the years I have been here with the government trying to figure out how they are going to prepare for a shutdown. Any business that operated that way in America would go bankrupt pretty soon. The CEO would be fired, and the board of directors, which we are, might be fired as well.

Let's learn the lesson that we learn too often, and let's do our work on time and do it well.

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I certainly associate with the concerns of the majority leader, Mr. HOYER. I associate myself with his concerns and my appreciation for the Appropriations Committee.

Let me thank Ms. DELAURO and my fellow Texan, Ms. GRANGER, and certainly make mention of her ascending to continue as ranking member in the next Congress.

I rise to support this underlying legislation for the extension of the CR to December 18. And I rise to, as well, re-emphasize the desperate conditions Americans are in. There are 14 million COVID-19 cases, almost 300,000 dead. It is predicted to have Americans, tragically, that will possibly lose their life in 2021, of upward of 500,000 Americans.

This is a funding bill. When we say keep the government open, what we really mean is to serve the American people, to make sure that they have healthcare, that they have education

dollars, that they are able to fund their local police and fire, that they have childcare dollars, that they have research dollars.

At the same time, if I went on any local street in America today, they would be asking me to give them a lifeline so their restaurants can stay open. The small businesses, they would be asking about their unemployment extension and the cash payments.

That is what we need to get into the negotiation, and we are hoping to do the funding bill and COVID-19 as well.

I want to rise on the floor today to make a number of points in particular: the necessity of the unemployment extension and increase—we had \$600 in the past—and the necessity of the cash payment as well.

But I also want to make mention of the fact that our local jurisdictions, our cities and counties and Tribal jurisdictions, they need the money for public funding to go directly to them, no strings attached by the State. They are losing out. Their firefighters are losing out; their health clinics are losing out; and their municipal workers are losing out because it is getting entangled with the State.

Finally, the Department of Transportation needs funding for its environmental assessment for projects like I-45.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

□ 1245

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, there are so many projects, like I-45 in Texas, that recklessly tears into minority neighborhoods without any response to those voters, those constituents, wiping out their houses and churches and schools. So the Department of Transportation funding will be in here that we will have the opportunity to assess environment impact statements.

Finally, let me offer my greatest appreciation for Chairwoman NITA LOWEY; yes, an angel on this floor for so many years, guiding us, leading us in a way that brought back the kind of success that America needs.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Ms. DELAURO for her hard work and I wish her success as well.

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, before I close, I want to take a minute to congratulate Congresswoman DELAURO for being named chairwoman of the full committee next Congress. I look forward to working with her in the coming years.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on the bill before us today, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I know the majority leader has left the floor, but I thank

him for his congratulations and his warm words. I look forward to working in conjunction with him as we move to pass 12 bills by June.

I want to particularly say how pleased I am to be able to work with the ranking member, my colleague from Texas. We have worked on issues in the past, never at this level, but I am looking forward to a really close and wonderful relationship as we try to do the Nation's business. Thank you so very much.

Mr. Speaker, with an additional week to negotiate, I am optimistic that we can fund the government for this year and we can deliver coronavirus relief for the American people who are desperate and looking to us for hope.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in passing this extension of funding so we can complete our work. It is not about us. We have the responsibility, but it is about the people outside of this Chamber who are relying on us.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 8900.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3 of House Resolution 965, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

REAFFIRMING COMMITMENT TO MEDIA DIVERSITY

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 549) reaffirming the commitment to media diversity and pledging to work with media entities and diverse stakeholders to develop common ground solutions to eliminate barriers to media diversity.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 549

Whereas the principle that an informed and engaged electorate is critical to a vibrant democracy is deeply rooted in our laws of free speech and underpins the virtues on which we established our Constitution, "in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity . . .";

Whereas having independent, diverse, and local media that provide exposure to a broad range of viewpoints and the ability to contribute to the political debate is central to sustaining that informed engagement;

Whereas it is in the public interest to encourage source, content, and audience diver-

sity on our Nation's shared telecommunications and media platforms;

Whereas the survival of small, independent, and diverse media outlets that serve diverse audiences and local media markets is essential to preserving local culture and building understanding on important community issues that impact the daily lives of residents;

Whereas research by the American Society of News Editors, the Radio Television Digital News Association, the Pew Research Center, and others has documented the continued challenges of increasing diversity among all types of media entities;

Whereas with increasing media experience and sophistication, it is even more important to have minority participation in local media to ensure a diverse range of information sources are available and different ideas and viewpoints are expressed to strengthen social cohesion among different communities; and

Whereas the constriction in small, independent, and diverse media outlets and limited participation of diverse populations in media ownership and decisionmaking are combining to negatively impact our goal of increasing local civic engagement and civic knowledge through increased voter participation, membership in civic groups, and knowledge of local political and civil information: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) reaffirms its commitment to diversity as a core tenet of the public interest standard in media policy; and

(2) pledges to work with media entities and diverse stakeholders to develop common ground solutions to eliminate barriers to media diversity.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 549.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 549, reaffirming the commitment to media diversity and pledging to work with media entities and diverse stakeholders to develop common ground solutions to eliminate barriers to media diversity.

This resolution promotes much-needed diversity in the communications marketplace, and I commend Representative DEMINGS and her staff for all their efforts towards this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I also thank Ranking Member WALDEN, Communications and Technology Subcommittee Chairman DOYLE, and Subcommittee Ranking Member LATTA for their work to bring this resolution to the floor.

This past year has highlighted racial inequities that have long existed in our

society, as we saw with the protests over the murder of George Floyd and the disparate impact that the COVID-19 pandemic is having on communities of color.

These inequities also exist in our communications marketplace. For example, the owners of broadcast and media outlets do not reflect our diverse population. These media outlet owners make critical decisions about the educational, political, entertainment, and news programming Americans watch, and those decisions can influence people's opinions and perceptions.

Diversity in viewpoints and diverse ownership of media outlets promotes programming that offers different perspectives and enables viewers to access programming that is relevant to them.

A diverse media marketplace is also central to an informed and engaged electorate, which is critical to a vibrant democracy.

Committing to a diverse media marketplace, one that reflects our country, is a worthy goal, and this resolution reaffirms that goal.

Today's resolution is a good step forward, but there is much more that we need to do. The numbers and statistics are clear that our media marketplace does not resemble the people we serve.

I hope we can come together to do the additional work that is needed, and I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 549. This is a resolution introduced by my colleague, Mrs. DEMINGS, that reaffirms the commitment by Congress to work with media entities and diverse stakeholders to find common ground solutions to eliminate barriers to diversity in our media.

As a former radio broadcaster myself, I understand the efforts that the broadcast industry, and the media industry as a whole, takes to ensure diversity of ownership, viewpoint, and employment. My wife and I had to make those hiring decisions for our five radio stations. I know firsthand the business imperative to serve your community with local news and local programming that reflects the makeup of your community.

While today's resolution focuses specifically on broadcast stations, this problem is not unique to one segment of the media industry; it is also an issue for their cable and digital streaming competitors in the marketplace.

I appreciate the many steps that the industry has taken, not only to recognize and take responsibility for this, but also to put in place the many programs and initiatives to promote opportunities for women, minorities, and veterans. But as the data show, we still have room for improvement.

While the House is considering this resolution today, it is my hope that we